

Summer 2026 Newsletter



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Hope For Ella

One-year-old Ella is a happy little girl who adores her big sister and has an infectious chuckle. But her first year of life has been incredibly challenging.



Little Ella

After a complex pregnancy and seven weeks in NICU, genetic testing revealed that Ella has a "really rare genetic condition called CSDE1. She's the only one in the UK known to have it, with only 24 cases worldwide." With so little known about the condition, Ella's future remains uncertain, but early intervention and regular therapy can support her development, mobility and independence.

Ella began receiving physiotherapy through the NHS, but sessions every six to eight weeks weren't enough. Private therapy was the next step, but the cost quickly became a burden for the family.

Whilst on holiday, Ella's mum Rhianne came across another family fundraising with Tree of Hope. She understood the benefits of fundraising through a registered charity, explaining: "I knew if I got on board with a charity, my work would also be on board with helping sponsor Ella, which is just amazing because obviously every penny counts when you're trying to fund therapy. So being with Tree of Hope has just been absolutely life changing."

Ella started private physiotherapy at eight months old, with the initial goal of sitting independently before starting nursery. She has already achieved this milestone, with Rhianne saying, "at eight months she couldn't even hold her head up and now she can sit for 20 minutes on her own." Ella's progress "has all come from physio, and that physio would not have been possible without Tree of Hope helping us fund it all".

The family are continuing to fundraise to cover Ella's £100-a-week physiotherapy. Rhianne has secured a place in next year's London Landmarks Half Marathon, while they are also planning a family fun day at Christmas!

For other families considering fundraising, Rhianne's advice is simple: "Reach out to Tree of Hope because it is by far the best thing we have done. You just need that extra support and I wish we reached out sooner." Rhianne concluded that "comparison to typical kids is probably the thief of joy, but just enjoying their tiny little moments will bring so much joy – realistically more joy, because you know how hard they've worked for it."



Learn More

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Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1149254 / Scotland SCO42611



Tree of Hope

Winning team, FTG Allstars



Tunbridge Wells Inner Wheel Presentation

Our news

The lovely ladies at **Tunbridge Wells Inner Wheel**, gifted us **£3,000**, raised from their charity of the year adoption. We have loved meeting and working with them and appreciated everything they did to support us.

We are excited to have started our Corporate Partnership with **Slater and Gordon**, who have pledged to donate **£15,000** to us this year in support of our Family Support Team. Slater and Gordon are also supporting families through information webinars and sessions, and we are really pleased to develop this partnership over the coming months.

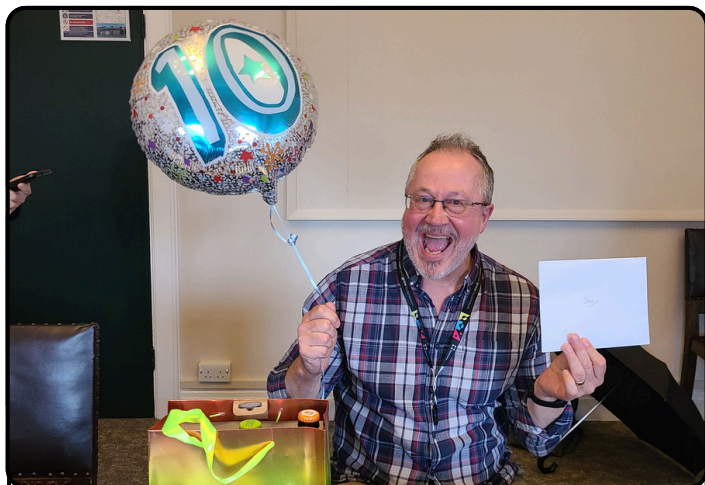
In July we received a donation of **£2,000** from **Lambert Healthcare** in Tunbridge Wells, it was a lovely and much appreciated surprise to hear from Daisy in their team that we had been awarded this gift!

In June we took part in a virtual Assembly with **Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School**, meeting the students online for a Q&A session. We are delighted to say, the students were awarded **£1,000** from the First Give initiative, which they donated to Tree of Hope!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our **Charity Golf Day in May**, as well as our sponsors **cio investment club**, **CCLA** and **Pure Nails**. We raised just over **£5,500!**



Register Now!



Dave Celebrates 10 Years!

In May we celebrated Dave's 10 year anniversary at Tree of Hope! As well as being an awesome Head of Finance and IT, Dave is a true supporter of Tree of Hope, having recruited many of his friends to fundraise for us, or attend our annual golf days over the years. We simply don't know what we would do without him! Here's to another 10 years!



Register Now!

Charity Golf Day

Dale Hill Golf Club



Entry Fee
£105pp

- Breakfast roll and coffee
- 18 holes of golf
- 2 course lunch
- Competitions and prizes
- Raffle and auction

22nd September 2026

Dale Hill Golf Club, The Woosnam Course
Ticehurst, East Sussex TN5 7DW

Book Your Place Now
karen.warner@treeofhope.org.uk



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Neve's New Wheels!

Neve's family have been with Tree of Hope for many years and while NHS wheelchairs had been invaluable, Neve became increasingly uncomfortable and found it difficult to leave the house.

Her mum Kirsty launched a fundraiser for a new wheelchair with improved support, including a built-in air system to help regulate Neve's body temperature. With generous support from friends and family, alongside a grant from The Jack O'Donnell Foundation, Kirsty raised the funds within weeks. Neve was even able to customise the colours of her new chair, making it truly her own.



Mont Ventoux for Oscar!

In May, John and 3 friends cycled Mont Ventoux in France in aid of raising funds for Oscar's campaign. The mountain climb has been made famous by epic stages in the Tour de France and it has a height of 1,910m and the climb is an incredible 21.8km.

Although the climb was set to be a challenge, John was inspired by Oscar's everyday strength and the challenges he's already overcome. The four cyclists raised £2,200 for Oscar's campaign which will go towards physiotherapy, orthotics, mobility aids and specialist equipment.



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Astor Bannerman Accessible Bathroom Experts



Learn More

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beyond routine

Everyone deserves a bathroom that is both beautiful and accessible. By combining the right equipment with thoughtful design, we create spaces that promote comfort, dignity and independence.

For over 30 years, Astor Bannerman has designed and manufactured specialist accessible bathroom equipment in the heart of the Cotswolds, working alongside **occupational therapists**, healthcare professionals and families.



We design and manufacture a complete range of accessible bathroom solutions, including:

- Ceiling track hoists
- Height-adjustable baths
- Washbasins
- Changing tables
- Showering solutions

Specialist Equipment for Dignity and Independence.



Supporting Families & Health Teams

- Equipment brought to you
- On-site surveys and assessments
- Designing for independence
- Future proofed solutions
- Adding sensory features
- Free CAD images of the room

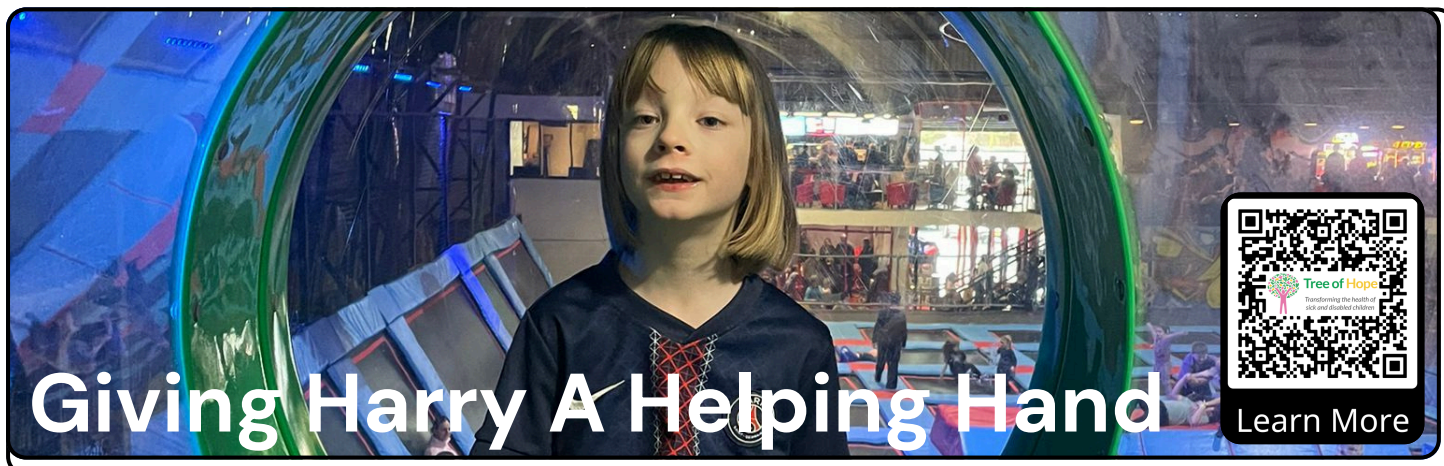
Every product is designed to meet individual needs while providing comfort, safety and lasting performance.

Transforming Lives

"It's life changing. The engineer was great, nothing was too much trouble."

Our team are on hand to support throughout the project.

Explore our website for equipment information, case studies, FAQs and support guides. www.astorbannerman.co.uk



Giving Harry A Helping Hand

Seven-year-old Harry loves football, WWE and watching YouTube. His mum, Kim, describes him as a 'little firecracker' who throws himself into everything!

Harry was born with Cerebral Palsy and has a left-sided brain injury which affects movement on the right-hand side of his body, particularly his arm, shoulder and hand. He also struggles with his right leg. He wears an ankle-foot orthosis (AFO) and arm splint to support his movement, but he is beginning to experience more pain, sore legs and tiredness.

His Cerebral Palsy also affects his independence. Kim explains that "it basically affects everything that Harry does, like getting dressed, the personal care side of things, putting glasses on, putting his jacket on and putting shoes on with a splint".

Harry's family have been fundraising with Tree of Hope for two years to access an intensive course of Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT). The therapy encourages children to use their weaker hand by restricting use of their stronger side, helping them practise and develop movement in their affected limb.

For Harry, the family hopes CIMT will improve his strength, coordination and independence with everyday tasks. Kim says, "we are hoping that Harry will have a lot more independence. He'll be able to do a lot more things like putting his jacket on independently, using a knife and fork, personal care for himself."

The family are now nearing their fundraising target, but have one final push to go. They have already taken on some incredible challenges, including skydives and

Harry's dad walking almost 80 miles of the Hadrian's Wall route.

Fundraising has not always been easy. Kim has reached out to Tree of Hope during difficult moments "to say look, we've hit a wall. What do we do?" Her advice to other families is simple: "It's hard, I'm not going to lie, but you've got to keep on going, keep pushing yourselves." And when things get tough, Kim says to remember why you started: "you just had to look at him and be like, right, this is the reason why we're doing it."

Need our help?

Our Family Support Team are on hand to help you through all stages of your fundraising by:

- Assisting with the creation and management of a Tree of Hope online fundraising campaign via JustGiving
- Regular fundraising support and guidance as well as tailored action plans
- Enabling each campaign to claim gift aid because it is part of our registered charity
- Giving greater exposure to campaigns nationally through PR support
- Support with managing funds and paying invoices

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